From: The IACP
To: jgrimes@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: IACP"s The Lead: Law Enforcement Agencies Across The Country Participating In "Click It Or Ticket" Campaign.
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 4:27:38 AM

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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

Law Enforcement Agencies Across The Country Participating In "Click It Or Ticket" Campaign

The Bel Air (MD) Patch (5/20, Janney) reports "10,000 law enforcement agencies throughout the nation are going to," on Monday, begin to "scour the roads, keen on busting the estimated 27.5 million unbuckled travelers." On that day, the Baltimore County Police Department, Maryland State Police, and the Harford County Sheriff's Office created "an enforcement zone near the Baltimore-Harford county line." The campaign, which will be going on through June 2, is called "Click It or Ticket," and it seeks "to enforce seat belt use to keep drivers and their passengers safe." The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates that over "10,000 unbuckled people died in passenger vehicle crashes in 2017," per the Patch.

Marietta, Georgia Police Announce Overdose Response Team

The Marietta (GA) Daily Journal (5/21, Williams) reports, "In 2018, 100 opioid overdose victims in Marietta were revived with Naloxone, a drug carried by Marietta Police, Marietta Fire and paramedics." The Daily Journal adds, "Starting this week, those overdose survivors will have a new source of help, thanks to a partnership between Marietta Police, Marietta Fire, Metro Ambulance Service and Davis Direction, a Marietta-based organization dedicated to fighting opioid addiction." The group "is called ASSIST, short for the Active Substance Support Intervention Solutions Team." According to the Daily Journal, "The ASSIST group members will receive alerts any time a first responder revives someone using Naloxone in the city."

Canadian Government To Fund British Columbia Police To Help Spot Drug-Impaired Drivers

The Globe and Mail (CAN) (5/21) reports, "The federal government is boosting funding to help British Columbia police departments recognize drug-impaired drivers and buy roadside testing devices, as many forces remain wary of the technology." According to the Globe and Mail, "Bill Blair, the minister responsible for organized crime reduction and border security, announced funding on Tuesday of $10.1-million over five years to increase the number of officers trained in field sobriety testing and as drug recognition experts." The funds "will also help police forces buy approved roadside devices to develop standardized data collection and help the province get a clearer picture of the extent of drug-impaired driving, Mr. Blair said. 'It's important for all Canadians to remember: Your life can be cut short or forever changed in an instant and you can seriously hurt the people you love most,' Mr. Blair told a news conference at Vancouver Police Department headquarters. 'Our message is very clear today. Don't drive high.'"

The 2019 IACP/Target Police Officer of the Year Award application is open! As the most prestigious law enforcement award of the IACP, the Police Officer of the Year award recognizes outstanding and heroic achievement among police officers across the globe, highlighting the sacrifices made daily by law enforcement's finest. Nomination deadline is June 24th. To apply, visit http://www.login2apply.com.

CRIME & DRUGS

South Carolina Police Set Up Sting Operation After Thefts From Lowe's Store

Columbia (SC) State (5/21, Marusak) reports, "So many items were stolen from a Lowe's home improvement store in Matthews that police and Lowe's security set up a sting operation that resulted in 14 arrests, police said Tuesday." According to the State, "The operation, from mid-April until mid-May, included 'surveillance, increased uniform and undercover patrols, intelligence and crime analysis,' according to a Matthews Police Department news release." The State adds, "The police effort followed a 'significantly high number of thefts' in recent months at the store in the 2100 block of Matthews Township Parkway (N.C. 51), police said in the release." Authorities "filed a total of 30 charges, served 69 outstanding warrants and closed 16 larceny-from-auto and five mail theft/financial fraud cases by arrest, according to the release," and "recovered $5,870 in stolen property."

UK Police Rescue Hundreds Of Children In Drug Gang Crackdown

Reuters (5/21, Elks) reports from London, "Dozens of suspected slaves have been rescued in a week-long crackdown on illegal drug gangs across Britain that uncovered hundreds of vulnerable children, officials said on Tuesday." According to Reuters, "More than 500 people were arrested in raids that saw 312,649 pounds ($397,000) in cash, 175,000 pounds worth of cocaine, as well as significant quantities of crack cocaine and heroin seized in a major coordinated police action. 'We know that criminal networks use high levels of violence, exploitation and abuse to ensure compliance from the vulnerable people they employ to do the day-to-day drug supply activity,' said Nikki Holland from the National Crime Agency (NCA). 'There are now fewer drugs on the streets, more vulnerable people safeguarded and the public can be reassured that collectively we are committed to tackling serious and organized crime offenders.'"

Police In Portugal Arrest Biker Gang Members In Raids Across Nation

Reuters (5/21) reports, "Portuguese police arrested 17 members of the Hells Angels motorcycle club on Tuesday on suspicion of organized crime activity, authorities said." Reuters adds, "Around 150 officers, including anti-terrorism personnel, took part in raids on homes and commercial establishments across Portugal, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a statement." Reuters adds that "homes were searched in the capital Lisbon, the country's north and the Algarve in the south where thousands of bikers gather every year for an international motorcycle event." Police "confirmed 17 men belonging to the Hells Angels and aged between 29 and 52 were detained and expected to appear in court on Wednesday, charged with criminal association – which in Portugal is punishable by up to five years in jail."

New Jersey Man Admits To Robbery Spree

Paramus (NJ) Daily Voice (5/21) reports Bridgeport resident Alvin Robertson "has admitted to robbing multiple banks and Subway restaurants in Connecticut last year." Robertson "has been detained since his arrest last year on Sept. 27 following a multi-agency investigation between the FBI, Berlin Police Department and Connecticut Intelligence Center, which identified him as a suspect."

Major Gangster Disciples Figures Convicted In Atlanta

Multiple media sources in Georgia are reporting on the conviction of five major figures of the Gangster Disciples in Atlanta last week. Neighbor Newspapers Atlanta (5/21) reports, "A federal jury has convicted five members of the Gangster Disciples (GD) national criminal organization of offenses including racketeering, conspiracy involving murder, carjacking, attempted robbery, and other crimes." Among the convicted was the GD leader for Georgia, a major hitman, and a former DeKalb County police officer. FBI Atlanta SAIC Chris Hacker said "I would like to thank the FBI led Safe Streets Gang Task Force and its state and local partners, in particular in this case, the Atlanta Police Department and DeKalb County Police Department, for their efforts in making this case and making our streets safer. ... The Gangster Disciples are a ruthless gang that has preyed upon the good people of our communities for far too long. We are dedicated to continue dismantling these organized and violent criminal enterprises until we reach our ultimate goal of ending their reign of terror."

Authorities Say Sineloa-Cartel Backed Network In San Diego Used FedEx To Ship Meth

The San Diego Union-Tribune (5/21) reports a San Diego-based network with ties to the Sineloa drug cartel "used FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service to ship large quantities of methamphetamine throughout the United States." The network "was dismantled Tuesday in a coordinated takedown, authorities said." To mask its identity, "the organization created fake FedEx accounts that were billed to and paid for by large U.S. corporations in hopes that the illicit packages would evade scrutiny and get

lost in the large amount of regular, legitimate shipments, authorities said." Federal officials "did not specify which companies were targeted."

TECHNOLOGY

Lawsuit Challenges Police Use Of Facial-Recognition Technology In The UK

Reuters (5/22, Elks) reports Ed Bridges and civil rights group Liberty's "legal challenge against a British police force's use of facial-recognition technology on passers-by in public spaces began on Tuesday in a potential landmark case that could set limits on the increasingly common surveillance method." The plaintiffs "will argue that South Wales Police is violating citizens' rights by recording their faces without consent or any grounds for suspecting they have committed a crime." In addition to South Wales Police, several other "British forces have joined others around the world in using such devices in recent years, with police arguing it allows smarter policing while rights groups say the level of intrusion cannot be justified." Attorneys for Bridges "will argue live facial recognition violates citizens' rights to privacy, equality laws and data protection laws in the three-day hearing at Cardiff High Court in Wales."

SenseTime Co-Founder Calls For Regulating, Not Banning Facial Recognition The Wall Street Journal (5/21, Negishi, Subscription Publication) reports that amid pushback over SenseTime Group's use of facial-recognition technology, co-founder Bing Xu said it is better to regulate the technology than to ban it. Xu defended facial recognition's ability to improve the safety, cleanliness, and efficiency of large urban areas.

Hackers Holding Baltimore, Maryland's Computer Hostage

Vox (5/21, Stewart) reports, "Thirteen bitcoins are standing between the city of Baltimore and many of the services and processes its citizens rely on after hackers seized thousands of government computers at the start of the month. The ordeal has been going on for two weeks, and there's no clear end in sight." On May 7, "hackers digitally seized about 10,000 Baltimore government computers and demanded around $100,000 worth in bitcoins to free them back up." Baltimore "is refusing to pay up," and "as a result, for two weeks, city employees have been locked out of their email accounts and citizens have been unable to access essential services, including websites where they pay their water bills, property taxes, and parking tickets." The ransomware attacks in Baltimore "and other local governments across the US demonstrate that as ransomware attacks spread, and as common targets such as hospitals and schools beef up their online systems' security, there are still plenty targets vulnerable to this kind of hack."

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Denver, Colorado Officer Honored For Work With Homeless

The Denver Post (5/21, Schmelzer) reports, "Arthur Robinson hadn't seen his family in 20 years," and "he was living in an alley two blocks from Coors Field when Denver police officer Alicia Harris met him in late December." Harris "was concerned about Robinson," as "it was the middle of winter, and a homeless man had been run over in that same alley not too long before." According to the Post, "Over the next month, she worked to connect Robinson with his family, taking bits of information he shared to put together a search," and on Tuesday, the police department "honored Harris with the Unparalleled Community Impact Award for her work helping Robinson get home. 'She spends more time and gets to know people she works with in the homeless community more than anybody else on the job,' said Sgt. Brian Conover, her supervisor on the department's homeless outreach team. 'They know her. They look for her when they need help.'"

Syracuse, New York Police Swear In 36 New Officers For Academy

The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (5/21, Buckshot) reports from Syracuse, New York, "For Devin Duval joining the Syracuse Police Department is a proud family tradition." Duval "is the son of former Syracuse Police Chief Dennis Duval, who retired in 2004." According to the Post-Standard, "Devin Duval was among 36 new officers sworn in this morning for the Syracuse Regional Police Academy Class #20. 'It's a great honor to serve in the same agency and community as my father,' Duval said. 'Just like all the other recruits here ... I'm looking forward to serving the community.'"

Jackson County, Michigan Seeks Volunteers For Dive Team

MLive (MI) (5/21, Weidmayer) reports that the Jackson County, Michigan Sheriff's Office "is looking for volunteers to join its dive team." According to MLive, "The all-volunteer dive team works with local public safety agencies for water rescue, evidence retrieval and drownings. You do not have to live in Jackson County to apply, you just need to live nearby, Undersheriff Chris Kuhl said. Most of the current team consists of recreational divers." The 13-person team "has divers who have been members for more than 15 years," and "some want to stop diving and assist from the surface." MLive adds, "Those who make the team are deputized and attend training throughout the year. There is training in the summer and winter to make sure the team is ready for all conditions," but "if the situation is not safe, divers are not sent, Kuhl said."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

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